

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the March 9, 2007 non-final Office Action. Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 will have been amended, Claims 3, 6, 7, and 9-18 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to the Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification on the basis of various identified informalities.

Applicants have amended the specification in view of the Examiner's comments and suggestions to obviate the objection. Applicants thank the Examiner for his helpful suggestions.

Accordingly, the objection to the specification is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Response to Claim Objections

The Examiner has, in effect, objected to Claims 1, 3-8, and 17 on the basis of various informalities. Claims 2 and 5 have been objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(a) on the basis that such claims fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention.

Applicants have amended the Claims in view of the Examiner's comments and suggestions to obviate the objection. Applicants thank the Examiner for his helpful suggestions.

Accordingly, the objections to the claims are now moot and should be withdrawn.

Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 0, and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,685, 139 to Masuda et al. (Masuda) and US Patent 4,975,971 to Ohnishi. Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Masuda and Ohnishi, as applied to Claim 9, and further in view of Ohnishi. Claims 8 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Masuda, Ohnishi, and Ohnishi, as applied to Claims 7 and 17, and further in view of US Patent 5,999,636 to Juang. Applicants traverse these rejections and respectfully submit that neither Masuda, Ohnishi, nor Juang, either alone or in combination, teach, suggest, or would have otherwise rendered the subject matter of Applicants' claims obvious, at the time the invention was made, to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 3, 6, 7, and 9-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Independent Claim 1 have been amended to recite a method of inspecting a printed paper on which images are printed repeatedly that include the steps of:

“predetermining a threshold (a) of lowest stained density near a level (L1) of lowest printed density for inspection of stained parts;

predetermining a threshold (b) of highest blurred density near a level (L2) of highest printed density for inspection of blurred parts;

reading multi valued data of reference of each color from a printed paper, the multi valued data of reference being converted into monochrome data of reference by using the thresholds (a, b) of lowest stained density and highest blurred density so that monochrome images of reference can be stored in a memory (24) from the monochrome data of reference;

reading multi valued data of inspection of each color from a printed paper which is fed when inspecting, the multi valued data of inspection being converted into monochrome data of inspection by using the thresholds (a,b) of lowest stained densities and highest blurred density so that monochrome images of

inspection can be stored in the memory (24) from the monochrome data of inspection; and

comparing the monochrome images of inspection with the monochrome images of reference for inspection of stained parts and blurred parts;

predetermining areas for decision of stained parts or blurred parts;

recognizing whether the monochrome images of inspection include portions disagreeing with the monochrome images of reference or not where the portions are positioned and what areas the portions have and deciding on stained parts or blurred parts when the portions have areas exceeding the areas for decision of stained parts or blurred parts;

predetermining a limit (c) of minus differential density independently of the threshold (a) of lowest stained density for inspection of shortage of printed density at every pixel;

predetermining a limit (d) of plus differential density independently of the threshold (b) of highest blurred density for inspection of excess of printed density at every pixel;

comparing the multi-valued data of inspection with the multi-valued data of reference at every pixel for recognition of difference between the multi-valued data of reference and the multi-valued data of inspection;

predetermining area for decision of shortage of excess of printed density;

deciding on shortage of excess of printed density when the difference exceeds the limit (c, d) of minus differential density or plus differential density by portions having areas which exceed the areas for decisions of shortage or excess of printed density; and

executing the inspection and decision of stained parts and blurred parts and the inspection and decision of shortage and excess of printed density simultaneously.”

Nowhere is it seen within the disclosures of Masuda, Ohnishi, and Juang, where such references, either alone or in combination, teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious, the method of inspecting a printed paper on which images are printed repeatedly that include the combination of steps recited in Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8. As such, the

subject matter of amended Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 are distinguished over Masuda, Ohnishi, and Juang, either alone or in combination.

Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Response to Objection of the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to on the basis that Figures 1 and 13-15 “fail to show structure and method steps as described in the specification”.

Applicants have amended Figures 1 and 13-15 to include labels for each of the structural features and method steps depicted in the drawings. The inclusion of the current labels are consistent with the various labels depicted in the original drawings.

Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is now moot and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8, are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

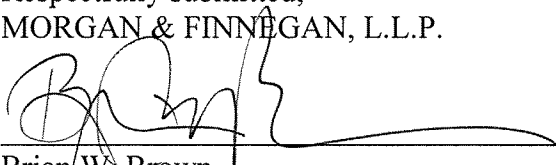
AUTHORIZATIONS

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0140-4222.

Respectfully submitted,
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